GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1859
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
AGREEMENT BETWEEN IREL AND M/S V.V MINERALS
Bellarmin Shri A.V.

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Agreement has been signed between Indian Rare Earths Limited(IREL) and M/s V.V.Minerals, permitting the latter to do sand mining in the beach which was earlier done by IREL;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons to allow private parties in this strategic sector; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure safety of such strategic sector in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement entered into on 23.2.2005 based on a meeting convened by Ministry of Mines briefly envisages the following:

(i) IREL withdrawing of mining lease application in the Mel Midalam area of Midalam village in the land towards the seaside.

(ii) Permitting M/s. V.V.Mineral conducting mining operations from Midalam Hamlet to Inayam Hamlet.

(iii) M/s. V.V. Mineral agrees to transfer specified patta land in favour of IREL at registered price.

(iv) M/s. V.V. Mineral withdrawing all pending cases filed against IREL/Officers of IREL.

(v) The State Government will recommend all applications of IREL for renewal/fresh mining lease applications.

However, the agreement was not operationalised.

Beach Sand Mineral sector was opened up for private sector participation through the Policy Resolution dated 6.10.1998 taking into account the low rate of exploitation of the vast resources available in the country and also to bring in value addition technology to the country.

(c) The BSM Policy, inter alia, envisages appropriate dispersal of the new production facilities, regulate exploitation of the resources by such facilities to ensure that the exploitable reserves lasts for about 100 years besides being subject to the regulations/guidelines issued by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board from time to time.